

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of latent image bearing members;

a plurality of visible image forming units each including development means for developing latent images on said corresponding latent image bearing member to form visible images thereon;

a light scanning means for forming said latent images on said latent image bearing members, said scanning means including a deflecting means for deflecting image information light to form said latent images on surfaces of said latent image bearing members;

an endless intermediate transfer member;

means for rotating said endless intermediate transfer member;

a transfer means for transferring said visible images formed by said visible image forming units in a manner to be superposed on said endless intermediate transfer member;

a mark detection means for detecting a base mark affixed onto a predetermined location on a surface of said endless intermediate transfer member and providing a mark detecting detection signal corresponding thereto;

a standard angle detection means for detecting the light deflected by said deflecting means arriving at a predetermined angle of deflection; and

a deflection angle phase correction means included in said light scanning means for correcting a phase of change in angle of deflection caused by said deflecting means based on at least the mark detection signal from said mark detection means and a standard angle detection signal from said standard angle detection means,

wherein said light scanning means is configured to carry out light scanning onto said plurality of latent image bearing members such that at least one pair of neighboring visible

image forming units of said plurality of visible image forming units are both subjected to the light scanning by a same deflecting means, [[and]]

wherein said endless intermediate transfer member is adapted to be rotated for a plurality of rounds by said means for rotating such that [[a]] the surface thereof of the endless intermediate transfer member is superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided by a same of said visible image forming units during each round for one of rounds of rotation of the endless intermediate transfer member;

wherein said plurality of visible image forming units each further includes first and second visible image forming units to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image forming units, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming units onto the surface of said endless intermediate transfer member during a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, a quadruple-color image is formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming units onto said double-color image during a second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member;

wherein said light scanning means is further configured, after storing a time lag dt1 as a difference between a time Ta when the mark detection signal is detected and a time Tb when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, to measure a time lag dt2 as a difference between a time Tc when said mark detection signal is detected and a time Td when said standard angle detection signal is detected during a second rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, and to correct said phase based on said time lag dt2 and said time lag dt1 previously stored; and

wherein said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a

predetermined base correction time; initiate optical image writing for the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on said standard angle detection signal detected after a time T_e determined as a time elapsed by a base correction time t_1 from said time T_a ; correct said phase, during a period between the time T_c and a time including the time T_c and said base correction time t_1 , based on said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit.

2-3 (Cancelled).

4 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a predetermined standard time difference t_s ; to compute a time difference Δt as a difference between said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and, in a case where said standard time difference $t_s \geq$ said time difference Δt , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to said optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit.

5 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is

detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a predetermined time from the time T_c , and determine said predetermined time ~~in comparison with said base correction time t_1~~ based in at least a time T_f when optical image writing is initiated for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit, said time T_e , said base correction time t_1 , said time lag dt_1 , and said time lag dt_2 .

6 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a time difference tx between said time T_e and said time T_f , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 , and said time difference tx .

7 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said endless intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined number of ~~[[said]]~~ mark detection signals are detected after said time T_a , said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round

of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

8 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c , said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

9 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible image forming units,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark

detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i and a time when said standard angle detection signal is produced firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

10 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

11 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in a case where ~~[[said]]~~ image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first

visible image forming unit and second color images formed by said second visible image forming unit, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival of said time T_e .

12 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, ~~further comprising: a plurality of development means included in~~ wherein each of said first and second visible image forming units includes a plurality of the development means; and a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming unit and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming unit, said first and second visible image forming units are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to store a sum of said time difference t_x and said base correction time t_1 as an added correction time t_1' , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 , and said added correction time t_1' .

14 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,
further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between
each affixed onto said endless intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of
said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in
said first visible image forming unit is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined number
of [[said]] mark detection signals are detected after said time T_a , said light scanning means is
further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g and a time
after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3
between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly
after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round
of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing
member included in said second visible image forming unit.

15 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said
endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said
first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark
detection signals is detected after said time T_c , said light scanning means is further
configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said
time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said
time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time
 T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless

intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

16 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible image forming units,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

17 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark

detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is detected by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

18 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein, in a case where ~~[[said]]~~ image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming unit and second color images formed by said second visible image forming unit, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival of said time T_e .

19 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, ~~further comprising: a plurality of development means included in wherein~~ each of said first and second visible image forming units includes a plurality of development means; and a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming unit and of a second color being able to be

developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming unit, said first and second visible image forming units are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

20 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

- means for bearing latent images;
- means for forming visible images by developing said latent images;
- means for implementing light scanning to form said latent images by deflecting light, including image information, to irradiate surfaces of said means for bearing latent images;
- means for transferring visible images formed by said means for forming visible images including an intermediate transfer means rotated by a rotation means;
- first means for detecting a base mark affixed onto a predetermined location on a surface of said intermediate transfer means;
- second means for detecting light deflected by said means for implementing light scanning at a predetermined angle of deflection; and
- means for correcting a phase of change in angle of deflection by said means for implementing light scanning based on at least a mark detection signal from said first means for detecting a base mark, and a standard angle detection signal from said second means for detecting light,

wherein said means for implementing light scanning carries out light scanning such that at least one pair of neighboring visible image forming means of said means for forming visible images are subjected to light scanning both by a same of said means for implementing light scanning, [[and]]

wherein said intermediate transfer means is adapted to be rotated for a plurality of

rounds such that [[a]] the surface thereof is superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided by a same of said means for forming visible images during each round;

wherein said means for forming visible images further includes first and second image forming means to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image forming means, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto the surface of said intermediate transfer means during a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, a quadruple-color image is formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto said double-color image during a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means;

wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured, after storing a time lag $dt1$ as a difference between a time Ta when the mark detection signal is detected and a time Tb when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, to measure a time lag $dt2$ as a difference between a time Tc when said mark detection signal is detected and a time Td when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the second rotation of said intermediate transfer means, and to correct said phase based on said time lag $dt2$ and said time lag $dt1$ previously stored; and

wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a predetermined base correction time; initiate optical image writing for the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said latent image bearing means included in said first visible image forming means based on said standard angle detection signal detected after a time Te determined as a time elapsed by a base correction time $t1$ from said time Ta ; correct said phase, during a period between the time Tc and a time including the

time T_c and said base correction time t_1 , based on said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

21-22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[22]] 20, wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a predetermined standard time difference t_s ; to compute a time difference Δt as a difference between said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and, in a case where said standard time difference $t_s \geq$ said time difference Δt , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to said optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

24 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a predetermined time from the time T_c , and determine said predetermined time ~~in comparison with said base correction time t_1~~ based in at least a time T_f when optical image writing is initiated for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means, said time T_e , said base

correction time t_1 , said time lag dt_1 , and said time lag dt_2 .

25 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a time difference tx between said time T_e and said time T_f , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 , and said time difference tx .

26 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto the intermediate transfer means in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for $[[a]]$ the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined number of $[[said]]$ mark detection signals are detected after said time T_a , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

27 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 26, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for $[[a]]$ the second round of rotation of said

intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_h when anyone said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

28 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for detecting a base mark; and
second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first said second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i that has and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate

transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

29 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 28, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detection signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

30 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming means and second color images formed by said second visible image forming means, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival of said time T_e .

31 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming means; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming means unit and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming means, said first and second visible image forming means are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

32 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning light scanning means is further configured to store a sum of said time difference t_x and said base correction time t_1 as an added correction time t_1' , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 , and said added correction time t_1' .

33 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said intermediate transfer means in a direction of endless rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined number of [[said]] mark detection signals are detected after said time T_a , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

34 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

35 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for detecting a base mark; and
second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

36 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is detected by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said

standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

37 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming means and second color images formed by said second visible image forming means, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival of said time T_e .

38 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming means; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming means and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming means, said first and second visible image forming means are each configured to enable said first

color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.